

of Caring Award from the National Association of Counties and the Volunteer Administrator of the Year Award from the international Association for Volunteer Administrators.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you to join me in commending Joan Brown's contributions of over 32 years to the people of Marin County. Joan leaves our county more enriched through her innovative vision of volunteerism and community service. I wish her an enjoyable retirement with her family and success in her continued service commitments.

**SALUTING SERVICE ACADEMY
STUDENTS—KIOUMARS REZAIE**

HON. SAM JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 16, 2011

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an extraordinary group of young men and women who have been chosen as future leaders in our armed forces by the prestigious United States service academies. It is a privilege to send such a fine group from the third district of Texas to pursue a world-class education and serve our nation.

As we keep them and their families in our prayers, may we never forget the sacrifices they are preparing to make while defending our freedoms all across the globe. I am so proud of each one. God bless them and God bless America.

Today I salute Kioumars Rezaie, a United States Merchant Marine Academy appointee. Kioumars is a graduate of Plano West Senior High School where he played football, as well as soccer and served as the team captain. Simultaneously, Kioumars played select soccer and served as his team's captain. Kioumars was actively involved as a member of the Third District Congressional Youth Advisory Board, a JROTC commander, and the National Honor Society. He was also part of the American Legion Texas Boys State where he was a state delegate and was active at St. Andrew United Methodist Church in the Seven Loaves Food Pantry. Kioumars believes that the service academies require young men and women to have honor, courage, and commitment and looks forward to grooming those traits.

HONORING ENSIGN-BICKFORD INDUSTRIES ON THEIR 175TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. CHRISTOPHER S. MURPHY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 16, 2011

Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Ensign-Bickford Industries on their 175th anniversary. Since 1836 Ensign-Bickford has called Simsbury, Connecticut home, where its employees have always strived for quality and innovation.

Before setting up shop in Connecticut, William Bickford invented a miner's safety fuse in 1831 that would later make Ensign-Bickford Industries a pioneer of the safety fuse for both mining and military applications.

As the years passed, the country and the company changed and adapted. Ensign-Bick-

ford transformed into a leader in the aerospace industry. In fact, since the beginning of the American space program, the company has provided the technology that allows rockets to separate, and satellites to be launched into orbit.

Ensign-Bickford has also served both our state and the nation by helping to protect our soldiers in battle. The company has developed important landmine clearing technology and strengthened armor for military vehicles. These innovations have undoubtedly saved lives, and taken together with the other industries they serve, Ensign-Bickford has provided thousands of jobs for American families through the years.

For nearly two centuries, Ensign-Bickford Industries has epitomized the American spirit of innovation, perseverance, and responsibility that I believe we need to restore in American manufacturing. So I wish to congratulate Ensign-Bickford on this special occasion, and I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Ensign-Bickford Industries on their 175th anniversary.

HONORING MADELEINE MISEMER

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 16, 2011

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Madeleine Misemer of Saint Joseph, Missouri. Madeleine is active in the community and in her school and has been chosen to receive the YWCA Women of Excellence Future Leader Award.

Leadership is a hallmark of Madeleine's high school career. While earning high academic honors each semester, she remained involved in Student Council and was a delegate to the Missouri Association of Student Council Summer Leadership Workshop. Madeleine has been enrolled for three years in the Leadership Class and has also been a DECA leadership conference delegate. She is often seen at athletic events supporting her peers, and is a member of the varsity tennis team. Her lengthy list of service activities includes chairman of the blood drive and steering committee member for the Senior Citizen's Prom. She is also a natural tutor and mentor, leading activities for struggling students.

Madeleine's nominator states, "Her high morals and ethics are not to be questioned . . . others trust her judgment, and she sees the bright side to all situations."

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in recognizing Madeleine Misemer. She is an amazing individual and a tremendous asset to our community. I am honored to represent her in the United States Congress.

AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2012

SPEECH OF

HON. JAY INSLEE

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 14, 2011

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2112) making appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2012, and for other purposes:

Mr. INSLEE. Madam Chair, I am concerned about the underlying legislation's attempt to zero out funding for the USDA Biomass Crop Assistance Program (BCAP), in the Agriculture Appropriations bill for FY2012. BCAP is an important economic development program uniquely focused on advanced, next generation biofuels that can be grown, produced, and refined in Washington state. This biomass can be used for heat, power, bio-based products, and biofuels. In fact, it is the only program that helps farmers transition from growing traditional crops to growing energy crops.

BCAP is vitally important for the development of the clean domestic biomass energy industry. Authorized in Title IX of the 2008 Farm Bill, BCAP received \$552 million in FY 2010, but the final Continuing Resolution that passed into law for FY 2011 reduced BCAP funding to \$112 million. Today, the House Agriculture Appropriations bill goes further, proposing to eliminate funding for this program in its entirety. I believe that eliminating this program is the wrong direction, and will hinder job creation in the emerging biomass and biofuels industries.

It is widely agreed that developing a robust sustainable biomass and biofuels industry will produce significant jobs and generate revenues in rural areas. One national study has found that producing 475 million gallons of biofuel in 2009 resulted in 23,000 jobs across the economy, \$4.1 billion in added GDP growth, \$445 million in Federal tax revenues, and \$383 million for State and local governments. Feedstock production would likely represent half the direct jobs, boosting employment in rural areas and small communities.

For example, in the Pacific Northwest, a coalition of aviation and airline industries, universities, ports and international airports, recently released a report outlining how to commercialize aviation biofuels. Many of the coalition partners are working to bring these aviation biofuels to market and will rely on BCAP, as do countless other biofuel and biomass organizations around the Nation. Because of the prospects for widespread job creation and superb opportunities for positive rural development, I believe that rather than zero out this program, Congress should preserve funding at the Administration's proposed budget of \$201 million.